UNDP

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

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**DP/PROJECTS/7156**

**ENGLISH**

**APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF UNION OF MYANMAR**

IPF:(1987-91) $92 500 000
(MYA/90/021) - Programme Co-ordination & Logistics Support for United Nations System Border Area Development)

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| Date of approval by the AC:[1/] | 9 October 1991 |
| Expected duration: | Three years |
| Proposed executing agency: | UNDP/OPS |
| Government implementing agency: | GOM Border Area Development Committee (Sector: Regional Development) |
| Proposed UNDP contribution: | $1 226 700 Source of funds: IPF |
| Total UNDP budget: | $1 226 700 |

## Project background

The Northern Border Areas of Myanmar have remained isolated and disadvantaged for decades resulting in insurgency activities and poppy/drug traffic.In 1989, the Government signed a peace accord with some of the ethnic groups and agreed to provide socio-economic assistance to improve the living condition of the population in the Border Areas on a priority basis. A total of Kyats 275 million ($44 million at the official exchange rate) has been invested since 1989 and the Government strategy has concentrated on establishing service centres and bases for operations and building physical infrastructure (roads and micro hydro electricity stations) and social infrastructure (hospitals and schools).

The Government formally requested assistance from UNDP and other United Nations Agencies to complement the national efforts. A joint United Nations System Needs Assessment Mission led by UNDP was fielded to the Border areas in March 1991. The Mission confirmed the critical need for poverty alleviation and human development and recommended that the United Nations assistance should initially concentrate in three regions namely Kokang, Wa and East Kengtung in the Shan State near the Thai/Chinese border. Most of the people in these areas are subsistence farmers who rely partly on poppy cultivation to supplement their meagre incomes. The productivity of land is very low and deteriorating due to excessive slash and burn cultivation. The farmers receive a meagre reward for opium which is barely enough to meet the essential needs of food and clothing. Health standards are poor, with the population threatened by malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and polio. The incidence of opiate addiction is rising rapidly. Children are particularly vulnerable, with virtually no immunization, rising HIV infection and the impact of drug abuse and war trauma. Education and training services are limited and the school enrollment is very low.

[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

Infrastructure and services are poorly developed with limited coverage of telegraphic, postal and radio communications to only the major centres. Limited power supplies are currently available in ten villages or town centres where diesel generators (2 to 100 kw) have been installed. The generators are operated for very limited periods (up to four hours per day) due to fuel shortages. Rural water supplies in most villages are from open water bodies, that are poorly protected and seasonally limited. There are no sanitary facilities in the villages.

A kind of blue-print for programme action in the short and medium term was adapted by Government and endorsed by eight United Nations agencies as plan for action, including UNCDF, UNICEF, IFAD, UNFDAC and UNDP. The United Nations system will support a comprehensive regional development programme (with a budget of $20 million) for the Border Areas. These will include projects/activities to increase incomes, and set in place viable activity to displace poppy production (agriculture, livestock, small business), improve living conditions and access to basic needs and services (health, nutrition, education) promote community involvement and build physical infrastructure (roads, electricity, water supplies). In view of the remoteness and isolation of the project areas and realising the enormous financial and technical resources needed for development, it is vital that the joint United Nations programme and activities proposed for the Border Areas be co-ordinated and have comprehensive logistic support. But rather than having components in several projects in a more cost-effective co-ordinated manner this project will provide the needed logistic support.

## Description of project

This project will support a large multi-agency United Nations System Border Areas Development Programme and will provide co-ordination and logistics support services to projects under the larger development programme. Two field bases will be set up. A Management Expert, based in the project areas, will co-ordinate the logistics needs of various missions, consultancies and projects. Services provided will include efficient communications within the border areas and with Yangon, transportation, assistance in delivery of equipment (including customs clearance), and short-term accommodation and meals to cover the operations and maintenance costs. The Management Expert also will assist the United Nations Border Areas Co-ordination Committee in ensuring co-operation among the various United Nations agencies and projects.

## Inputs

UNDP will provide 36 man-months for a management expert, 35 man-months for an administration and logistics officer, 98 man-months for three logistics assistants, 385 man-months for support personnel; premises (two logistics field offices); four vehicles, a radio/data communication system and other technical equipment; and miscellaneous costs mainly for operations and maintenance of equipment.

## Financial data

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| Personnel | 698 800 |
| Equipment | 410 200 |
| Miscellaneous | 117 700 |
| Total | 1 226 700 |

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